

First record of Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* for São Tomé Island, São Tomé and Príncipe

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Première mention du Loriot d'Europe *Oriolus oriolus* pour l'île de São Tomé, São Tomé et Príncipe.

Le 28 décembre 2015, un Loriot d'Europe *Oriolus oriolus* a été photographié à Ponta Figo, São Tomé. Il s'agit de la première donnée pour l'île et la deuxième pour São Tomé et Príncipe, la première, un juvénile collecté à Príncipe, datant de novembre 1954.

On 28 December 2015, shortly after midday, my companion K. Beulink pointed out a mainly yellowish-olive and yellow thrush-sized bird perched in a tree c.8–10 m from the terrace of Mucumbli Ecotourism Lodge (00°21'01.46"N 06°32'27.88"E), Ponta Figo, São Tomé. Having spent only a few days on the island, I was focusing on its endemics and I initially supposed that the bird was probably a São Tomé Oriole *Oriolus crassirostris*. Our guide, however, informed me that São Tomé Oriole at this site would be very unusual.

The bird had yellowish-olive upperparts and blackish wings. Primary-coverts had some narrow, pale yellow fringes. The underparts were whitish

streaked blackish, with yellow flanks and bright yellow undertail-coverts. The bill was dark.

I managed to take a few 'record shots', of which two are reproduced here (Figs. 1–2). After consulting Christie & Clarke (1998), it became obvious that the bird was an immature of either Eurasian *O. oriolus* or African Golden Oriole *O. auratus*, neither of which had previously been recorded on São Tomé. African Golden Oriole, however, would have broad yellow fringes to all wing-coverts and flight feathers (Fry & Keith 2000, Borrow & Demey 2014), which the bird did not possess.

Eurasian Golden Oriole is a non-breeding visitor to sub-Saharan Africa from its Palearctic



Figures 1–2. Immature Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*, Mucumbli Ecotourism Lodge, Ponta Figo, São Tomé, 28 December 2015 (Mark van Boekel)

Loriot d'Europe *Oriolus oriolus*, immature, Mucumbli Ecotourism Lodge, Ponta Figo, São Tomé, 28 décembre 2015 (Mark van Boekel)

breeding grounds. Its main wintering areas are north of the rainforest zone in Cameroon and Central African Republic, and south of 5°S, south to South Africa, in most deciduous woodlands (Walther & Jones 2008). West of Cameroon the species is scarce to rare and mostly recorded on passage (Fry & Keith 2000, Borrow & Demey 2014). This is the first record for the island of São Tomé, but the second for the country, the first dating from November 1954, when a juvenile was collected on the island of Príncipe (Jones & Tye 2006, Dowsett *et al.* 2015).

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